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1 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI Representative to ASAT Working Group
Chief, SALT Support Staff

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Monitoring a Comprehensive ASAT Arms Control
Agreement: New Systems and Procedures for
Improvement of Monitoring

REFERENCE: Memo from DCI Rep to ASAT Working Group, dtd 21 April 78,
same subject [REDACTED] 25X1

1. I've done my best to read through the entire attachment to your memo of 21 April to the ASAT Working Group. I'm afraid that I come away from it with a very mediocre understanding of the problem. If as indicated in the forwarding memo this is really going to be discussed by the SCC in another week or two, we're going to have a tremendous job to get this into a form that the SCC members themselves will have time to take aboard and/or I will have capability to present to them briefly for their consideration.

a. There's a minor detail. The publication is clearly written for the benefit of those who were writing it and who understand all the jargon in it. Lots of us just don't know

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trying to monitor, what present systems can be brought to bear, what their limitations are under current and receptive practices, and what prospective actions can improve those probabilities by how much. Somewhere there's got to be a table that lets us know which improvements give how much benefit for which kinds of detection. We've got to be able to see and understand what areas of detection we want

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to improve most, and what the possibilities are of improving them. In the long run, we will then have to put a dollar tag beside each of these improvements.

2. In short, I'm sure the work is all here and everybody who's written this understands it, but there is simply no way I can hope the SCC could take it aboard from this paper or possibly make any decisions based on it. We're well on the road but we've also got a long way to go. Please let me in on your organization of the next version of this memorandum before you spend a lot of time writing.

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See STANSFIELD TURNER

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